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OFFICE OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE

The Georgia Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Residential Child Care (ORCC) inspects, monitors, and licenses Child Caring Institutions, Child Placing Agencies, Outdoor Child Caring Programs, Children's Transitional Care Centers and Maternity Homes.

ORCC works to ensure that facilities and programs operate at acceptable levels, as mandated by State statutes and by rules and regulations adopted by DHS' Board of Human Services.

CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS

A child caring institution is defined as any child-welfare facility which either primarily or incidentally provides full-time room, board and watchful oversight to six or more children through 18 years of age outside of their own homes. A child caring institution must obtain a license or temporary license.

CHILD PLACING AGENCIES

A child placing agency is defined as any child welfare agency which places children in foster homes for temporary care or in prospective adoptive homes for adoption. Agencies that arrange for children to receive care in foster homes or in prospective adoptive homes must make arrangements to assess the placement regarding the appropriateness of the room, board and watchful oversight that the prospective foster or adoptive person or family will provide.

OUTDOOR CHILD CARING PROGRAMS

An outdoor child caring program is defined as any child-caring institution that provides room, board and watchful oversight along with a variety of outdoor activities taking place in a wilderness or camp environment that are designed to improve the emotional and behavioral adjustment of the children, through the age of 18, participating in the activities.

CHILDREN'S TRANSITIONAL CARE CENTERS

A children's transitional care center is defined as a facility which provides a temporary, home-like environment for medically fragile children, technology dependent children, and children with special health care needs, up to 21 years of age, who are deemed clinically stable by a physician but are dependent on life-sustaining medications, treatments, and equipment, and who require assistance with activities of daily living to facilitate transitions from a hospital or other facility to a home or other appropriate setting.

A children's transition care center must obtain a license or temporary license. Centers operated as a part of a local church ministry or religious nonprofit school or a nonprofit religious charitable organization may request to be commissioned in lieu of licensed. All provisions of the rules apply to centers that request to be commissioned, and for the purposes of the rules, the term license has the same meaning as commission.

MATERNITY HOMES

A maternity home is defined as a place that admits, treats, or cares for, within a period of six months, more than one pregnant woman, either before, during or within two weeks after childbirth.

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Runaway Youth Safety Act, passed by the Georgia General Assembly in 2011 as Senate Bill 94, created a limited exception to criminal liability for service providers that serve children under the age of 18 who have run away and/or are homeless. Organizations that are currently licensed by ORCC or have a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service are eligible to apply for registration to become a Runaway and Homeless Youth Program provider.